

DPC 119

TRANSCRIPT OF DAILY BRIEFING
FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1979

(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

Mr. Carter: Good afternoon.

We have available in the Press Office the testimony of Matthew Nimetz before the Subcommittee on Trade at the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means. Mr. Nimetz testified on MFN waiver renewal for Romania and Hungary.

I have a sad duty and obligation for me, though I expect, given the nature of this job, a happier one for him. This is Ken Brown's last day with us in the Press Office and in the Press operation. He will be going on to that finer place in the sky where Foreign Service Officers ought to go which is probably not dealing with the press. In any case, it has been a extraordinary two years that Ken has given this place. He's been a first-class Press Officer in every way. And all of us are going to miss him. I just wanted to put that in on the record. (Applause)

Q I think goodbyes to Ken are in order. Just speaking for the unaffiliated correspondents at the State Department, Ken has brought a great sense of verve and good humor whenever he had to stonewall, which was frequent; and we will certainly miss him. I speak on behalf of quite a few of us.

A Thank you, Les.

I have no statements.

Let me say one thing, I have a senior Department officer coming down here in a minute. I don't mind kicking it off on Nicaragua; but as far as details of what's going on OAS right now, if you'll wait a minute, I'll have a guy here for backgrounding on that.

Q Some of us are going to a lunch, so let me try something that maybe you can address.

The Secretary called yesterday for a transition coalition in Nicaragua. Two very quick questions: Does he think Somoza's Liberal Party should be part of the transition? Does he think the Communists should be part of the transition?

A I think that what he called for was representative of all groups with the support of the Nicaraguan people. That has to be self-defining. I'm not going to